



**County of Los Angeles  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES**

425 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, California 90020  
(213) 351-5602

**PHILIP L. BROWNING**  
Interim Director

November 10, 2011

To: Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, Mayor  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District  
MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS  
Second District  
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District  
DON KNABE  
Fourth District  
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "P. Browning", is written over the list of supervisors.

From: Philip L. Browning, Interim Director

**RESPONSE TO THE OCTOBER 11, 2011 MOTION COMPILING LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DATA ON CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT AND DEATHS**

On October 11, 2011, on motion of Mayor Michael D. Antonovich and Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, the Interim Director of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), in conjunction with the Chief Executive Officer and all affected agencies that partner in child welfare services, County Counsel and the Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN), was directed to report back in 30 days and quarterly thereafter on a mechanism by which to comprehensively report on child abuse, neglect and deaths in a meaningful way to inform the Board's child safety, permanency and self-sufficiency policy decisions.

For several years, ICAN and DCFS have partnered in efforts to collect data on child abuse, neglect and deaths and have taken steps to provide data and information to the Board on a more frequent basis. More recent efforts include the provision of lessons learned from reviews and analyses of child deaths. Recently, ICAN met with DCFS and representatives from several agencies that partner in child welfare services, including the Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles City Police Department, Department of Mental Health, District Attorney, Los Angeles City Attorney, and area schools. As part of this effort, ICAN formed three subgroups to focus on 1) infant homicides 2) undetermined and accidental deaths of children under age five when there is suspicion of child abuse or neglect, and 3) all homicides of children by parent or caregiver other than infant homicides.

ICAN and DCFS will continue to work collaboratively to provide your Board with quarterly reports on child abuse, neglect and deaths, and establish a comprehensive format to provide these data. DCFS will include quarterly data on child abuse and neglect, along with data on child safety, permanency, and self-sufficiency, providing the Board such data in a meaningful and comprehensive manner. ICAN will continue to prepare its three comprehensive annual reports that include valuable longitudinal data on child fatalities, safely surrendered and abandoned babies, as well as multi-agency data and information on child abuse and neglect.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

November 10, 2011

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Provision of data from DCFS and ICAN will include a reconciliation and review of data sets in order to identify the differences between ICAN child death data and SB 39 data. Differences will be further discussed and elaborated in the initial quarterly report.

In an effort to assess comprehensive data, DCFS contacted the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Office as it is the repository agency of records for all Los Angeles County deaths. DCFS consulted with the Chief Executive Officer and County Counsel and will be establishing a Memorandum of Understanding with the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk Office in order to obtain index data which contains all information on certificates of death.

The process to compare data has been initiated, and the mechanism to present the data and information in a concise yet comprehensive and useful manner is in the process of being developed. We will provide your Board with an update regarding the requested data and information in 90 days. If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Aldo Marin, Manager, DCFS Board Relations Section, at (213) 351-5530.

PB:JL

FL:fl

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Interagency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect